

Nursing Assistant Program Western Technical College

Supplemental Information

- **Course Sequence and Delivery.** The Nursing Assistant (NA) program is offered on the La Crosse Campus as well as many locations throughout our region. Fall, spring and summer courses are offered. Program offerings may be between 6 and 15 weeks in length, and offerings are daytime, evening, or weekend timeframes. This course has independent workbook assignments and active lab sessions practicing and testing out on all required skills prior to being released to a supervised clinical rotation at a long-term care facility in our region.
Please be sure to purchase and bring along your textbook and workbooks the first day of classes! All textbooks are required for the first meeting day of class! Questions call the Campus Shop/bookstore at 608 785-9140.
- **Reliable Transportation.** You will need reliable transportation to complete the clinical requirements. Students are responsible for their own expenses for transportation related to the clinical site assignment.
- **Clinical.** There are 42 hours of clinical experience scheduled in the Nursing Assistant program. It is necessary for you to travel to the nursing homes where you will care for residents. Students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical agencies.
- **Immunizations and Influenza.** All immunizations and TB test must remain current through the program. During flu season, you will be required to obtain a flu shot or continually wear a mask. Some clinical sites may refuse you without a flu shot.
- **Mandatory Attendance.** The Wisconsin Department of Health Services requires students to attend this class for the full 120 hours. Missing any class time will result in mandatory makeup assignments or plans. Absence of greater than 12 hours will result in failure of the course. Do not enroll in this class if you intend to miss days for weddings, family vacations, work, college visits, sports, conferences etc., because **attendance is mandatory.**
- **State NA Registry.** Students who successfully complete the program are required to take the Nursing Assistant Registry Exam offered by Head Master if they desire employment in a federally funded health care facility, that is, a facility that accepts Medicare and Medicaid patients. **The exam must be taken within one year of program completion.** Nursing Assistant candidates must be successful in both written and skills portions of the exam to be placed on the Nursing Assistant Registry. The current cost for the exam is \$125 + \$20 supply fee. (Note: This testing cost is set by the testing agency and could change without notice.) Students are responsible for the cost of testing. **Students who do not complete the exam within one year and still desire to be on the Nursing Assistant Registry in Wisconsin must repeat the entire Nursing Assistant course.**
- **Expenses in Addition to Textbooks.** Students are required to purchase a uniform for their clinical experience. It is **not** necessary to have the uniform prior to the start of the class. Uniform

requirements are reviewed and explained on the first day of class. They include appropriate pants/skirt and top, shoes, and watch with a second hand. A Western patch is needed and can be purchased in Western's Campus Shop. There is a fee of \$125 + \$20 supply fee at the end of the course to take the registry exam to become registered in Wisconsin as a Nurse Aide (noted above).

- **Background Information Disclosure Form.** The State of Wisconsin requires that individuals who will be working with vulnerable adults and/or children undergo a criminal background check. You must complete the form (available for download on the program's web page) and submit the \$20 fee (made payable to Western Technical College) in order to meet this admission requirement. Western does not accept background checks conducted by third parties (i.e., your employer). You are required to disclose all past experiences with the law. Any arrests or new charges must be reported to Joan Miksis, the Associate Dean of the Nursing Assistant Program (608.785.9275), within five (5) working days. Failure to do so may result in program dismissal. In addition, if you have resided outside of Wisconsin in the past 3 years, you will be informed of how to obtain your out-of-state background check at an additional expense.

If your background check reveals past experience with the law, the clinical site or sites scheduled for the class you register for will be contacted to determine the likelihood of your being able to complete a clinical experience at those sites. **Clinical sites have the right to refuse clinical placement to any student based on the background check results. You will be informed of the decision of the clinical sites to assist you in understanding the likelihood of being able to complete this program.** If you have charges on your background check, we are unable to guarantee that you will be able to be placed for clinical experiences. It is your decision whether or not to enter the program based on the uncertainty of being accepted at clinical sites.

- **Body Art and Piercings.** In the Health & Public Safety Division, a student may display no body art or piercing that might be considered offensive. Most employment settings have policies that are generally broad; however, they do reserve the right to deny employment and student clinical/practicum/fieldwork placement if body art or piercings are found to be offensive to those in that setting.
 - The wearing and displaying of jewelry in the health care or public safety setting is generally limited to wrist watches and wedding rings or small non-dangling earrings. The purpose of this limitation is related to infection control, safety and public perception of the employees while they are on duty.
- **Program Faculty.** If you have specific questions about the program or your particular situation, please contact the NA program faculty directly.

Kris Stegemeyer
Program Co-Chair
608.785.9413
stegemeyerk@westernnc.edu

Marcia Robbins
Program Co-Chair
608.789.4762
RobbinsM@westernnc.edu

Joan Miksis
Associate Dean
608.785.9275
MiksisJ@westernnc.edu

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Additional Information

National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP)

Upon successful completion of the Nursing Assistant program, students are eligible to take the competency examination. The National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) is an examination program designed to determine minimal competency to become a certified Nursing Assistant. Students who have successfully completed a 120-hour nursing assistant program are required by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to take the Nursing Assistant Registry Exam if they desire employment in a federally funded healthcare facility. HeadMaster is the authorized administrator of the examination for the State of Wisconsin. The exam is made up of both a written and skills evaluation. Both portions of the NNAAP must be passed before a nursing assistant student can be certified in Wisconsin.

NA Registry Competency Exam Pass Rate

| | Western Jan-Nov 2019 | | Statewide Jan-Nov 2019 | | Western Jan-March 2018 | | Statewide Jan-March 2018 | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Written | Skills | Written | Skills | Written | Skills | Written | Skills |
| Number of Testers | 270 | 278 | unavailable | unavailable | 82 | 103 | 1677 | 2,097 |
| Number Passed | 232 | 231 | unavailable | unavailable | 81 | 86 | 1618 | 1,534 |
| Percentage Pass Rate | 86% | 83% | 82% | 74% | 98% | 83% | 96% | 73% |